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NEWTON ABBOT

RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

SANITARY INSPECTOR

AND

SANITARY SURVEYOR

1938.

NEWTON ABBOT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STAFF

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

* Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. W. H. SCOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. J. MAITLAND STEELE, M.D., M.B.Ch.B.

Chief Sanitary and Housing Inspector :

Mr. A. GRAY, C.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. K. H. PRIOR, C.R.S.I.

Architectural Assistant :

Mr. B. J. LANGLER, A.I.A.A.


Chief Sanitary Surveyor :

Mr. W. J. LUXTON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Surveyor :

Mr. L. G. BAILEY, A.F.A.S.

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Newton Abbot Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1938.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The district is composed of 26 parishes of varying size, with a total acreage of 92,650. The numerical estimate of the resident population is (Mid-1938), 21,480, a decrease of 10.

The number of inhabited houses (end 1938) was 6,890, an increase of 202 on the previous year. This gives an average of 3.2 persons per house. The Rateable Value (Mid-Year) was £120,291, and the estimated product of a penny rate £481.

The population is partly industrial (clay-mining, potteries, stone-quarrying, iron mining), partly agricultural and partly residential. Catering for tourists and trippers also occupies the time and attention of a large number of the inhabitants during the summer months.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1938.

Live Births:	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ...	120	146	} 275 = Rate of 12.8 per 1,000.
Illegitimate ...	6	3	

Average Rate for last 10 years: 14.5 per 1,000.

England and Wales Birth Rate: 15.1

Still Births:

Legitimate ...	7	13	} 21 = Rate of 70.9 per 1,000
Illegitimate ...	—	1	

births, Live and Still.

Deaths: 146 164 310 = Rate of 14.4 per 1,000
(Crude).

* Corrected Death Rate—11.6.

England and Wales Death Rate—11.6.

Maternal Mortality (Childbirth)—

Puerperal Sepsis — 1 = Rate of 3.3 per 1,000
births, Live and Still.

Infantile Mortality (under 1 year)—

Legitimate Infants	5	11	} 16 = Rate of 60 per 1,000
Illegitimate do.	—	—	

Legitimate Live Births

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births—58.

Ditto, ditto, England and Wales—53.

Deaths from Cancer, 38; Measles, 1; Whooping Cough, 0;
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 0.

* Correcting factor .81.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1938.

(As supplied by the Registrar-General).

						Males.	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	146	164
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	12	26
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	12	14
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	41	48
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	20	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	11	12
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	15	13

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE DISTRICT.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Newton Abbot Joint Isolation Hospital serves the Newton Abbot Urban and Rural Districts. The five parishes of the latter, namely Moretonhampstead, North Bovey, Manaton, Buckland and Widecombe, which formerly contracted out, are now included in the scheme. Patients are also admitted, by agreement, from Totnes Urban and Rural, Ashburton Urban and Buckfastleigh Urban Districts. It has a normal total capacity of 34 beds. During the year 56 cases were admitted, of which 19 were from the Rural District.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

The District is well provided. In addition to the Hospitals at Moretonhampstead (8 beds) and Bovey Tracey (16 beds), there are Hospitals within very easy reach, at Newton Abbot, Teignmouth, Dawlish, Ashburton and Torquay.

Cases of tuberculosis go to the D.C.C. Sanatorium, near Bovey Tracey, and to Hospitals at Torquay and Exeter, administered by the same Authority.

The County Council have also undertaken the provision of treatment for the crippled children of the District, through the Devon Association for Cripples' Aid. The Hospital is at Exeter and the nearest Out-patient Clinic at Torquay.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Council Laboratory at Exeter undertakes the examination, free of cost, of all clinical material, of milk samples for contamination with dirt, and of water from public water supplies. Other samples of water are sent for analysis to Mr. Tickle, County Analyst, at Exeter.

The Public Health and Laboratory Staffs of the County Council have, as usual, been most helpful with their advice and co-operation whenever asked for. It has been much appreciated. The same applies to the Staff of Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, who are always ready to help.

AMBULANCE AND FIRST AID.

A Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, with headquarters at Newton Abbot and branches at Abbotskerswell, Kingsteignton and Chudleigh, maintains three Motor Ambulances, which are available day or night (Tel. 112), and distance is no object.

In addition to the above, there is an Ambulance for infectious diseases attached to the Isolation Hospital, and doctors are asked to note that should they require the removal of a patient to this Hospital the name and address telephoned to Newton Abbot 70 will bring the Ambulance forthwith.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council, which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease.

There are thirteen practising Midwives in the District but no Maternity or Nursing Homes. Health visiting of children below school age is also carried out by the County Council, through Miss Walters, the School Nurse. The Welfare Centres of the District are situated at Bovey Tracey, Moretonhampstead, Kingskerswell and Ipplepen. The three latter are under the care of local doctors.

The Centre at Bovey can again record a successful year's work. There were 22 fortnightly sessions and the total attendances were 363 mothers, 215 infants, and 303 toddlers, giving an average attendance of 16 mothers, 9 infants, and 14 toddlers.

The sessions are held fortnightly, on Fridays, at the Temperance Hall. Mothers and children from Heathfield and Liverton come on one Friday, and from Hennock and Trusham on the other. The means of conveyance is by private bus.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Fry, the Honorary Secretary, and the other voluntary workers. Their efforts to ensure the smooth and continuous running of the Centre have been very successful, and are, we believe, as much appreciated by the mothers as by us.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

An abundant supply of good water for every household in the District continues to be one of the chief aims of the Public Health Committee.

Nearly every village has a piped supply and if of those few that are dependent on wells and rainwater tanks there is going to be an irreducible minimum, it has not, I hope, been reached yet.

Trusham, formerly perhaps the chief sufferer from water troubles in the District, was connected with the Torquay main at Hennock and should now suffer no more. This, though an expensive undertaking (£3,000 odd), on account of the distance, presented no great difficulty. Cost of water 1/- per 1,000.

The Moretonhampstead supply, though plentiful in quantity, was found from time to time to exhibit in the analyses evidence of slight pollution. Though probably manurial in origin, the presence of a few dwellings in the catchment area made it appear desirable to leave nothing to chance, and one of Paterson's Chlorinomes was installed at the intake to the reservoir. Since doing this the results of the analyses have been unexceptionable.

At Bickington the Church well was cleaned out, reconditioned, and protected from all surface pollution. It was well on the way to becoming fit for use when the pump was found broken. This will be mended when any risk of freezing is past.

Water supplied to the District derived from moorland sources is inclined to be of an acid nature and capable of attacking lead and copper service pipes. In the case of the supplies to Ilsington and Bovey Tracey this became evident some years ago and means were taken to neutralise the acidity by adding lime to the water.

Perhaps owing to the excessive rainfall during the winter, following last year's dry summer, the supplies to Moretonhampstead and Lustleigh have also shown a P.H. value, which was undesirably low, and though no lead has been actually found in the water it was thought better to be on the safe side, and similar steps were taken as those mentioned above.

It may be mentioned here that though builders are always warned against using lead or raw copper in the area of the above-mentioned supplies this is not always heeded.

At the end of the year the position as regards water supplies was as follows:—

(a) Villages taking water from outside sources into their own Reservoirs and Mains:

From Torquay Waterworks: Abbotskerswell (including Stoneyhill), Heathfield, Chudleigh Knighton, Kingskerswell, Ogwell, Haccombe-with-Coombe, Stokeinteignhead, Teigngrace, Ipplepen, Trusham and Coffinswell.

It will be noted that as the result of satisfactory negotiations with Torquay, Coffinswell now appears in the above list.

From Paignton Waterworks: Woodland, Broadhempston and Denbury. The latter has also a local supply.

Woodland may now be promoted to this list. It has no reservoir or mains of its own but the Paignton trunk main passes through the parish and tapplings have been made by most of the farms and houses within reach.

(b) Villages with their own Waterworks and local sources of supply: Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh, Hennock, Ideford, Ilsington (including Haytor, Liverton and Blackpool), South Knighton, Lustleigh, Moreton, Denbury, Torbryan, Luton, Bishopsteignton and Kingsteignton.

Bishopsteignton has also a supplementary supply from the Teignmouth main.

(c) Villages dependent on Wells, small Private Reservoirs and Rainwater Tanks: Widecombe, North Bovey, Bickington, Manaton and Buckland.

Water Testing.

There are 19 separate public water supplies in the District and at least two samples a year, and as many more as may be necessary, are taken for chemical and bacteriological analysis.

Of the 36 taken from public supplies, 29 were satisfactory and seven unsatisfactory; the latter included three from one well in process of reconditioning.

From private wells 19 samples gave eight satisfactory and 11 unsatisfactory results. Six of the latter were at Dacombe, in the parish of Coffinswell, but an extension of the Torquay water main to this hamlet has provided an alternative supply.

In this connection it should be here mentioned that a Provisional Order of the Ministry, that came into force on October 1st, transferred the existing public supplies of Abbotskerswell, Kingskerswell and Ogwell to the Water Undertaking of the Corporation of Torquay. Since that date a main from their Milber reservoir has been taken to Coffinswell and another to Dacombe, as stated above. In the latter case the Council have guaranteed an annual sum of £35 to assist in defraying the deficit in interest on the capital outlay.

SEWERAGE.

Under this heading several extensions and some important new work was undertaken and completed in seven different parishes.

Chief of the new work was that at Hennock Village, where a sewer and outfall works was provided to take the drainage from 36 houses at the south end of the village, including the new Council houses.

Details of the extensions and other new work will be found in the Surveyor's report.

At the end of the year the position was as follows:—

Villages possessing Sewers and Outfall Works: Abbotskerswell, Bishopsteignton, Bovey Tracey, Hennock, Chudleigh Knighton, Ideford, Liverton, South Knighton, Ipplepen, Kingskerswell, Kingsteignton, Manaton, Widecombe, Broadhempston, Ilsington, Chudleigh, Lustleigh and Moreton.

As mentioned in the last report new outfall works at Moretonhampstead are included in the five-year estimate of expenditure. In the meanwhile careful watch is kept on the present irrigation channel and any leakage which arises is dealt with and stopped as soon as possible.

Villages having Sewers but no Outfall Works: Stokeinteignhead, North Bovey and Denbury.

As regards Stoke, negotiations with the Corporation of Torquay for the sewerage of the whole of the Stoke valley having been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, it now only remains to obtain the sanction of the Ministry to borrow the money and proceed with the work.

At North Bovey and Denbury the irrigation channels are sufficient at present for dealing with the sewage from these two small villages.

Villages without Sewers: Bickington, Ogwell, Coffinswell, Trusham, Coombeinteighhead and Luton.

These for the most part have hand-pumped water supplies and earth closets. Sewers, as yet, are not necessary.

Trusham must be counted an exception to the above statement regarding hand-pumped water supplies, as it now has a public supply with consequent fouling of the village stream. Justifiable complaints have been received and the question of laying a sewer will be considered in the near future.

RIVER POLLUTION.

Under this head careful watch is kept and frequent inspections made. Action during recent years has reduced pollution by sewage to a minimum, and at the present time is so small as to be almost negligible. Pollution by clay water and gravel washings is another matter.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE COLLECTION.

Little alteration has been made in this respect and the system is working satisfactorily.

CAMPING SITES.

Having no direct contact with the sea, campers are not much in evidence in this District and numbers are comparatively small.

During the year 16 sites were used for camping, 10 of which were licensed, and the estimated largest number of campers at any one time was about 250.

Visits were paid during the season and little was found to take exception to.

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS.

- (a) Bugs. No complaints were received from tenants and there was no evidence of these insects on inspection.
- (b) Fleas. A few bad cases. Floors are swilled with carbolic disinfectant and Zaldecide sprayed on furniture. The work was carried out by the Council officers.

SCHOOLS.

Generally speaking, the sanitary condition of the Elementary Schools of the District, thirty in number, is good. All but three have a piped water supply and flush closets.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are in the District 110 Factories, 61 of these having mechanical power.

The Table below shows the work carried out and action taken under this Act :

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health
(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted
	(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories with mechanical power	62	3	Nil.
Factories without mechanical power	42	Nil.	Nil.
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	Nil.
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total	104	3	Nil.

2. **Defects Found.**

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	5	5	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)			Nil.	Nil.
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7): Insufficient	3	1	—	
Unsuitable or defective ...			—	
Not separate for sexes ...	(2 Outstanding).			
Other offences				
Total	8	6	Nil.	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

THE MILK SUPPLY.

An important and extensive industry, as shown by the fact that there are 525 Registered Milk Producers (of whom 197 are Producer-Retailers). This is a large number for one man to keep under observation, but continuous and methodical inspection of the premises, accompanied by routine sampling of the milk, was kept up throughout the year.

The numbers of Designated Milk Producers are as follows:—Tuberculin Tested, 7; Accredited, 49.

The remainder produce Ordinary Milk, a large amount of which goes to factories.

The number of samples, and the results, are shown in the Table below. This is a little better than last year, when only 51% passed, but it cannot be called satisfactory. Though often very difficult to come to any definite conclusion as to why some pass and others fail, the seasonal variations in the results caused by atmospheric temperature is very marked. There can be no doubt that the consumer would get a much better article if all milk were cooled before and during distribution.

In addition to the tests for cleanliness, 97 samples were tested for tuberculosis and two only were positive. This, the most important thing of all, is very satisfactory.

Overleaf will be found a table showing the passes and failures of the various designations as they occurred in the four quarters of the year, also a smaller table showing the totals for the year.

Designation.	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.	
	Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.
T T	4	3	14	1	10	8	16	5
Accredited	42	4	50	6	20	23	40	29
Ordinary	14	14	38	30	11	47	17	27
Total	60	21	102	37	41	78	73	61
Percentage Passed.	74		73		34		54	

Designation.	Total for Year,		
	Passed.	Failed.	Percentage Passed.
T.T.	44	17	72
Accredited	152	62	71
Ordinary	80	118	40
Total	276	197	58

THE MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The quality of the meat and the animals slaughtered has maintained the standard attained in the year before. That meat purveyors are now realising the importance of providing a good and wholesome article of food for the public is shown by the fact that 88 requests to inspect meat suspected of disease were received at the office. A short while ago such a thing was unheard of, and it is indeed a great help and much appreciated.

There are 27 Slaughterhouses, 22 Licensed and five Registered; some are rather old fashioned but on the whole clean and well kept.

They are situated as follows:—Abbotskerswell, 1; Bishopsteignton, 2; Bovey Tracey, 3; Chudleigh, 5 (two shared by two butchers); Ilsington, 1; Ipplepen, 2; Kingskerswell, 5; Kingsteignton, 2; Moretonhampstead, 4; Torbryan, 1; Widecombe, 1.

Licensed slaughtermen number 79.

Below is the tabular statement of Carcases inspected and condemned:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number inspected ...	572	232	110	2716	1768
All diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...			4	5	9
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	68	46	4	73	91
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	11.8%	19.8%	7.2%	2.8%	5.6%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	17	—	—	153
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis ...	1.7%	7.7%	—	—	8.7%

FOOD SHOPS AND STORES.

There are 31 Butchers' Shops, 27 of which have cold storage, and 61 other Shops, including Bakehouses, Fried Fish Shops and Milk Shops, where food is prepared, exposed for sale or stored. They are, generally speaking, well kept, and other than an occasional reminder re whitewashing or floor cleaning no action has been necessary.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

Administered by the Police, and the following samples taken. All were found genuine.

New Milk	...	25	Margarine	...	1
Flour	...	1	Pepper	...	1
Sweets	...	2	Cheese	...	2
Sugar	...	2	Arrowroot	...	2
Tapioca	...	1	Vinegar	...	5
Butter	...	1	Pearl	...	1
Baking Powder...		1			

HOUSING.

Private. The number of new Houses built in the District and building activity in general was much the same as usual.

There were only two Clearance Areas dealt with during the year, as follows:—

Broadhempston.

Area No.	Name of Street.	No. of each House.
39	Joseph Cottages	1, 2, 3, 4.
40	Court Cottages	1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

An enquiry was held on the 15th December with the result that no opposition was offered as regards No. 40, which was later confirmed by the Ministry of Health, whilst a scheme for thorough reconstruction of the houses included in Clearance Area 39 was brought forward and accepted by the Council.

The total number of houses dealt with Clearance Area is now 182 in 40 Areas.

In addition to the above, 76 were dealt with as Individual Unfit Houses under Section 11 of the 1936 Act, which provides that on account of the comparatively heavy cost of

making them fit an owner must either demolish or give an undertaking that they will not be used for habitation until they are made fit.

These houses are located as follows:—Bovey Tracey, 9; Chudleigh, 23; Netherton, 5; Ideford, 13; Ilsington, 9; Kingsteignton, 1; Lustleigh, 3; Moreton, 13.

Of the above there have been :

Demolished	...	...	...	...	...	2
Closed for habitation until made fit	...	...	...	...	...	48
Made fit under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act)	...	...	...	...	...	24
Made fit in other ways	...	...	...	...	...	2

All the above relates to work done during last year.

A summary of the total work done to the end of the year under the Housing Acts shows that of the 348 houses originally scheduled 312 have been dealt with in the following ways: In Clearance Areas, 174; Under Section 11, 94; under the Housing (R.W.) Act, 33; by other means, 11. This leaves 36 to be dealt with in due course.

It will be noted that extensive use has been made of the Housing (Rural Workers) Act. It has been, and it is hoped will continue to be, the means of saving many structurally sound but unfit dwellings.

This is well seen in the case of Ilsington, for example, where through the public spirit and enterprise shown by both the old and new owners this picturesque but hopelessly insanitary relic of the Middle Ages has not only been made eminently fit to live in but given a new lease of life which may well run into centuries.

Hennock, another ancient village, may on the contrary be an eyesore for a similar period. Here the uncompromising and obstructive attitude of the various owners made them quite impossible to deal with and left the Council no option but to condemn.

New Houses. During the year 146 Houses were built and occupied, thus completing the 224 which comprised the Council's original scheme of Re-housing, both for displaced families and overcrowding.

They are situated as follows:—Abbotskerswell, 8; Bovey Tracey, 32; Chudleigh, 64; Hennock, 14; Kingsteignton, 40; Broadhempston, 4; Ideford, 8; Moreton, 34; Lustleigh, 4; Stoke, 4; Coombe, 4; Liverton, 4; Ilsington, 4; average rental, 5/-.

This now brings the total number of houses owned, maintained and administered by the Council to 617. The annual cost to the District is approximately £2,500, equal to a rate of 4.84 pence.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:—

1	(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	253
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	1133
2	(a)	Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	66
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	74
3.		Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for Human Habitation	98
4.		Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for Human Habitation	96

II.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	74
--	----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	

(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
- (1) Number of Dwellings Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 3
 - (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By Owners ... 3
 - (b) By L.A. in default of Owners ... Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 4
 - (2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 1
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 1
 - (2) Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

IV.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding :—

- (a) 1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of year ... 11
2. Number of Families dwelling therein ... 13
3. Number of Persons dwelling therein ... 88
- (b) Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year ... 2
- (c) Number of New Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year ... 19
- (d) Particulars of any Cases in which Dwelling Houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding ... Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to Overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

While the number of cases of Notifiable Diseases was considerably below the average, Measles was very prevalent in the first two months of the year over large areas of the District. Chicken Pox also was plentiful in some localities.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)							
Age Periods.	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
2—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
3—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	14	2	—	—	1	—
10—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
20—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—
35—	—	1	1	2	2	1	—
45—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—
65—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	3	19	10	6	4	3	1
Hospital ...	3	18	—	2	2	—	—
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The above 46 cases of Notifiable Disease occurred in:—Moreton, 8; Kingsteignton, 8; Chudleigh, 5; Hennock, 4; Ilsington, 3; Stoke, 3; Bovey Tracey, Trusham and Coombe, 2 each; Kingskerswell, Abbotskerswell, Ipplepen, Torbryan, Ogwell, Ideford, North Bovey, Buckland, and Bishopsteignton, 1 each.

SCARLET FEVER occurred in every month of the year except March, and in eight different parishes.

DIPHTHERIA.—The almost total absence of this disease gave no opportunity of broaching the subject of immunisation.

This is offered by the Council free of charge to all children of school age and under.

As the number of susceptible ones must be now mounting up the first chance will be taken of starting a campaign.

MEASLES.—The chief sufferers from this were Kingskerswell, Bishopsteignton, Denbury, Chudleigh, Moreton, Ipplepen, Bickington and Widecombe.

CHICKEN POX.—Kingskerswell, Broadhempston and Bovey Heathfield.

WHOOPING COUGH and INFLUENZA were almost absent.

As regards Scarlet Fever the minimum duration of stay in hospital of uncomplicated cases is four weeks, followed by two weeks' detention at home. The routine exhibition of sulphanilamide in all cases appears to have appreciably lessened the incidence of complications.

In approved cases, and where the parents so desire it, removal to hospital in cases of this disease is not always insisted on. Instances of this, however, are very few.

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases and Deaths).

Eighteen cases were notified during the year, of which 16 were lung cases. Three have since died. At the end of the year there were about 193 tubercular persons living in the District, of whom 162 were lung cases. This is an increase of four on the year before. There were 13 deaths from the disease, including two outside the District. Of the 11 deaths in the District two had not been notified before death. This is a definite improvement in Notification on previous years.

All new cases are visited in order that the housing conditions of the patient may be inspected and to advise other inmates of the house of the infectious nature of the disease. A visit is also paid after death to advise on the question of disinfection.

ANALYSIS OF NEW CASES AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

TUBERCULOSIS.								
Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	3	2	—	—	4	1	—	—
25—	4	2	1	—	1	1	—	—
35—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
45—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and Upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	10	6	2	—	6	4	1	1

SUMMARY OF WORK EXECUTED THROUGH THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1938.

Factories.	No. of Inspections of Factories with Mechanical Power	62
	„ „ Inspections of Factories without Mechanical Power	42
Common Lodging Houses.	No. of Common Lodging Houses in the District	0
	„ „ Common Lodging Houses inspected	0
Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.	No. of Certificates granted by the County Medical Department to Foster Mothers under this Act ...	2
	„ „ Inspections made	2
Offensive Trades.	No. of Offensive Trades	1
	„ Improperly conducted	0
Complaints.	No. of Complaints received	41
	„ „ Complaints remedied	32
Shops Act, 1934.	No. of Inspections under this Act ...	117
	„ „ Defects found	12
	„ „ Defects remedied	1
	„ „ Shops now on Register	186
Dairies and Cowsheds.	No. of Dairies	485
	„ „ Cowsheds	561
	„ „ Visits to Dairies	399
	„ „ Visits to Cowsheds	620
	„ „ Buildings converted into Cowsheds	4
	„ „ Improvements to existing Cow- sheds	16
	„ „ Samples of Milk obtained	379
Slaughterhouses.	No. of Slaughterhouses	27
	„ „ Slaughterhouse visits	1525
	„ „ Diseased Carcases found partly or wholly unfit for Human Con- sumption	461
	„ „ Condemned Notes issued	70

Butchers' Shops and Meat Stores.	No. of	Visits to Butchers' Shops and Meat Stores	810
	„ „	Carcases inspected	5398
	„ „	Pounds of Food destroyed ...	8187
Bakehouses.	No. of	Bakehouses	21
	„ „	Bakehouse Inspections	45
Fried Fish Shops.	No. of	Fried Fish Shops inspected ...	2
	„ „	Fried Fish Shops unsatisfactory...	0
Schools.	No. of	Schools in the District	30
	„ „	Schools inspected	30
Housing.	No. of	Houses condemned as being unfit under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	76
	„ „	Houses dealt with in Clearance Areas	9
	„ „	Houses closed under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	2
	„ „	Inspections both under the Public Health and Housing Acts, 1936 ...	1133
Disinfections.	No. of	Articles of Bedding and Clothing disinfected	426
	„ „	Rooms disinfected	39
Disinfestations.	No. of	Houses disinfestated	4
Drainage.	No. of	Drain Tests to existing Houses ...	59
	„ „	Drain Inspections to existing Houses	105
	„ „	Conversions from Pail Closets to Water Closets	12
	„ „	Houses with entirely new Systems	22
Camping.	No. of	Inspections paid in connection with Camping	11
Clerical.	No. of	Legal or Formal Notices issued...	2
	„ „	Preliminary or Informal Notices issued	61
	„ „	Letters and Communications re- ceived	925
	„ „	Letters and Communications written	912

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD AND TRADE REFUSE.

Weekly collections are made at the villages of Kingsteignton, Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh, Bishopsteignton, Kingskerswell, Hennock, Chudleigh Knighton, Teign Village, Heathfield and Moretonhampstead.

Fortnightly collections are made at Abbotskerswell, Ogwell, Denbury, Broadhempston, Ipplepen, Lustleigh, Stokeinteignhead, Coombeinteignhead, Ilsington and Liveryton.

The refuse of Ideford is collected monthly and that of Coffinswell, Dacombe and Manaton quarterly.

A quarterly collection has also been introduced at Bickington, with the approval of the Ministry of Health.

Particulars as to the Refuse Collection for this year are as follows:—

	Loads.	Tonnage.	Miles.
THORNYCROFT ...	432	1,330	6,959
DENNIS ...	361	565	8,209
	<hr/> 793	<hr/> 1,895	<hr/> 15,168

Last year's figures were indicative of the saving to be effected by the larger capacity Thornycroft Lorry, and this year has fully justified our expectation in this direction. Although only three more tons of Refuse were collected than in 1937, a saving of 116 loads was made on the year's working.

Comparison between the full working years of 1936 and 1938 with the old and new Thornycroft Lorries respectively, show that a reduction of 379 loads was saved by the new lorry, irrespective of the fact that a further 127 tons of Refuse was collected in 1938.

The Refuse Dump has been kept in excellent condition by the men engaged, and during the year no complaints were received. There have been no fires.

REPORT OF SURVEYOR.

WATER SUPPLIES, 1938.

The amount of Water purchased in bulk from these Authorities is as follows:—

Teignmouth U.D.C.:

	Gallons.	Totals.
For the Parish of Bishopsteignton...	5,326,000	
	<hr/>	5,326,000

Torquay Corporation:

For Parishes of:—

Bovey Tracey (Heathfield)	...	2,781,000	
Hennock	...	5,583,000	
Hacombe-with-Stoke	...	7,025,000	
Abbotskerswell	...	13,231,000	
Ipplepen	...	6,723,000	
Kingskerswell	...	12,937,000	
Ogwell	...	2,027,000	
Trusham	...	317,000	
		<hr/>	50,624,000

Paignton U.D.C.:

For Parishes of:—

Broadhempston	...	1,534,000	
Torbryan (Denbury)	...	1,153,000	
		<hr/>	2,687,000
Total of Water supplied by Outside Authorities ...			<hr/> 58,637,000

Water Registered from Own Supplies:

Bovey Tracey	...	30,300,000	
Chudleigh	...	20,598,000	
Kingsteignton	...	27,933,000	
Moretonhampstead	...	22,355,000	
Torbryan	...	1,049,000	
		<hr/>	102,235,000
Total consumption registered in the Parishes ...			<hr/> 160,235,000

Five Parishes have piped supplies which are not metered—they are as follows:—Bishopsteignton, Hennock Village, Ideford, Ilsington and Lustleigh.

House Service Connections.

Forty-eight new house services were made from the Council's mains.

Extensions and New Works on Water Mains.

Bovey Tracey.—The 3in. Water Main was extended to the Council Housing Site at Brimley Vale. (200 yards).

A 6in. asbestos main was laid from the chlorine house to the reservoir at Trendlebeer in order to supplement the existing supply. (400 yards).

An extension of the water main was also made to a new house at Knowle. (130 yards).

Bishopsteignton.—The 3in. Water Main was connected to the 3in. leading to Fair Isle; this makes a circuit to Huntley and the lower road. (60 yards).

Chudleigh.—A 4in. Meter installed, with alterations to the pipe from the spring to the reservoir at Oxencombe.

381 feet of copper pipe was laid at Culver House.

Hacombe.—The Water Supply was extended at Nether-ton to serve the Cyder Factory and How's Farm, and also to Manor Farm, at Lower Netherton, 1in. copper pipe. (230 yards).

Ideford.—The Water Main was extended to the Council Houses at Church End. (100 yards).

Kingskerswell.—The 3in. Water Main was extended from Lyndhurst, through the proposed Building Site at Aller, for the Western Counties Brick Company. (160 yards).

Kingsteignton.—An extension of the Water Main was made at Homers Lane for the Building Estate for Messrs. Cumbley Bros. (50 yards 4in.).

Lustleigh.—A 2in. Water Main was laid from Pethy-bridge to Hisley, to serve the Farm, Cottage, Hisley House and a new House in course of erection. (450 yards).

Moretonhampstead.—Alterations have been carried out, and a Paterson's Chloronome Plant has been installed; the whole of the water entering the reservoir is now chlorinated. Samples have been analysed since this plant has been installed and have proved satisfactory.

Trusham.—The scheme was completed and put into service on the 19th May. Each house in the village had the water laid on as soon as the supply became available.

The scheme involved the laying of 4,136 yards of 3in. main from Hennock to the tank and the distribution mains.

Water Mains laid during the year:

	1in.	2in.	3in.	4in.	6in.
Bovey Tracey ...			330		400
Bishopsteignton ...			60		
Hacombe ...	230				
Ideford ...	100				
Kingskerswell ...			160		
Kingsteignton ...			50		
Lustleigh ...		450			
Trusham ...			4136		
Yards ...	430	450	4736	*	400

Total length of Water Mains laid, 5,916 yards.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Sewage Disposal.

The whole of the larger Parishes have Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works. These are enumerated in the report of the Medical Officer.

Work carried out for Sewers and Sewage Disposal:

Bovey Tracey.—A 7in. Sewer was laid to receive the drainage from the Council Houses at Brimley Vale. (83 yards).

A 9in. Surface Water Drain to take road and surface water to the stream was also laid. (80 yards).

An extension of the Sewer from Mary Street to Building Sites at Whitstone was laid across field and sites. (230 yards 6in. pipe).

Chudleigh.—A Surface Water Drain was laid from the Council House Site at Haldon View to the stream. (120 yards 9in. pipe).

Hennock.—A new Sewer and Outfall Works was provided at Warmhill to take the drainage from the whole of the Council Houses and others in the vicinity. This sewer has now been extended to serve the houses and shop, including the School House at Lowertown.

The outfall has been erected on a piece of land leased from Mr. W. J. Tuckett. The whole of the houses (36) in this locality have now been connected with the system and the existing cesspools abolished. (600 yards 6in. pipe).

Ideford.—The Sewer has been extended to the new Council Houses at Butts. This also serves the houses along the line, together with the School. (251 yards 6in. pipe, with manholes).

Illesington.—The Sewer was extended from the Carpenter's Arms to the site for the Council Houses in the village.

During the year the houses which are being reconditioned have been provided with drains and water closet and connected with the sewer. (110 yards 6in. pipe).

Kerswells.—A new 9in. Surface Water Drain was laid from Prout's Garage at Aller to the New Estate at Lyndhurst Avenue, to deal with this and the Western Counties Building Co.'s land.

Several extensions to the existing sewers have been carried out by persons laying out estates in this parish, viz., Lyndhurst Estate (6in.), Southey Estate (6in.), Easterbrook's Estate, Southey Lane (6in., approx. 400 yards). 380 yards 9in.

Manaton.—The Sewer was extended from the existing at the Kestor Hotel to connect up with that existing at Freeland's. This part of the village is now provided with sewers, which discharge into the Council's land near the Council Houses. (170 yards, 7in. sewer and manholes).

Summary of Sewers laid in Parishes during year:

6in.	7in.	9in.
1,591 yds.	250 yds.	580 yds.
Total 2,421 yds.		

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.—These are provided at Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh, Kingsteignton and Moretonhampstead.

STREET SCAVENGING.—This is carried out by the Council at Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh, Kingsteignton, Kingskerswell and Moretonhampstead.

PUBLIC LIGHTING is provided in the following Parishes:—Abbotskerswell, Bovey Tracey, Bishopsteignton, Chudleigh, Hennock, Ipplepen, Kingskerswell, Kingsteignton and Moretonhampstead.

DEMOLITION OF CONDEMNED PROPERTIES UNDER THE SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

During the year 40 Houses were demolished under the above heading:—

By Owners	...	29
By the Council	...	11
		—
		40

NEW BUILDINGS.

Lay-out Plans.—Plans for nine Lay-outs were approved covering 200 Sites, with roads, sewers and services.

House Plans presented and approved by the Council were for 132 Houses and 94 for additions or alterations and garages.

The number of Houses erected by private enterprise during the year was 86, with 52 alterations or additions and garages.

PLANS PASSED. BUILDINGS ERECTED.

Parish	Garages and		Garages and		Council Houses
	Houses.	Additions.	Houses.	Additions.	
Abbotskerswell	... 2	4	3	2	4
Bishopsteignton	... 4	7	2	4	—
Bovey Tracey	... 9	9	7	4	32
Broadhempston	... 1	6	1	3	4
Chudleigh	... 7	5	4	5	36
Coffinswell	... —	3	—	—	—
Hacombe	... 5	1	1	2	4
Hennock	... 1	—	1	1	8
Ideford	... —	—	—	—	8
Illesington	... 6	3	4	1	8
Ipplepen	... 8	7	5	3	—
Kingskerswell	... 50	14	28	8	—
Kingsteignton	... 17	4	12	—	—
Lustleigh	... 7	9	4	6	4
Manaton	... —	2	—	—	—
Moretonhampstead	... 3	9	3	6	34
North Bovey	... 2	2	3	3	—
Ogwell	... —	—	2	—	—
Stokeinteignhead	... 3	1	2	1	4
Teigngrace	... 2	2	2	2	—
Torbryan	... —	3	—	1	—
Trusham	... 4	—	2	—	—
Widecombe	... 1	3	—	—	—
	132	94	86	52	146

Lay-outs were approved covering number of Houses shown for each Parish as follows:—

Abbotskerswell	... 32
Bishopsteignton	... 12
Bovey Tracey	... 12
Hacombe	... 4
Illesington	... 71
Ipplepen	... 4
Kingskerswell	... 31
Kingsteignton	... 34

Total ... 200

W. J. LUXTON, M.S.I.A.,
Surveyor.

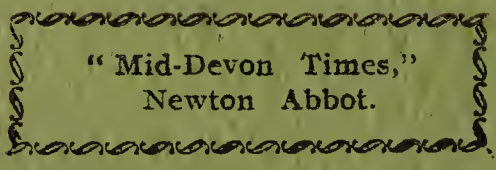
RAINFALL IN 1938.

Stations.	Height in feet above Sea Level.	Months.												Totals.	5 Year Average.
		January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.		
Bovey Tracey (Coun: Sch.)	130	5.55	1.41	.13	.01	2.97	1.33	3.04	6.01	1.02	4.44	6.13	5.18	37.22	42.00
Ipplepen (Vicarage)	266	6.11	1.39	.09	.07	2.76	1.08	3.71	6.60	1.73	4.88	8.62	4.44	41.47	41.88
Seale-Hayne College	375	5.59	1.30	.09	.08	2.72	1.21	3.27	7.84	1.63	4.19	6.48	4.38	38.78	38.33
Hennock (Reservoir)	836	6.01	1.71	.15	.22	4.15	1.71	4.63	5.39	1.69	4.98	7.88	6.31	44.82	44.77

The unusually high rainfall recorded in August was due to the abnormal fall on August 3rd, which in some parts of the District measured nearly five inches.

I am indebted for the above figures to Mr. S. C. Chapman, Water Engineer to the Borough of Torquay; the Rev. R. D. Cooke, Vicar of Ipplepen; Mr. Bint, Headmaster of Bovey Tracey School; and Mr. H. McClelland, of Seale-Hayne College.

W. H. Scott, M.O.H.



"Mid-Devon Times,"
Newton Abbot.